

Accountability and Divestment Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 765, H.R. 2346, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 776, On a Motion that the Committee Rise.

CELEBRATING THE 109TH BIRTHDAY OF CECILIA M. RUPPERT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 109th birthday of Cecelia M. Ruppert of Pinckneyville, Illinois.

Cecelia Ruppert was born on August 17, 1898 to George and Louisa (Schneider) Ruppert in their home at 602 W. Mulberry Street in Pinckneyville, Illinois. The house, which is still standing, was built by Matthew Schneider for his daughter, Louisa and her husband.

Cecelia was the second oldest of George and Louisa's 8 children. She attended St. Bruno School. While in grammar school, Cecelia took piano lessons and she and her older sister, Magdalen, would entertain neighbors by playing duets on the piano. Cecelia had many chores at home, such as rocking the babies, washing clothes on a washboard, ironing, and peeling potatoes each day.

Cecelia's first job was in Pinckneyville at McCant's General Store, where she sold ladies' dresses and would sometimes go to the basement to fill coal oil cans for sale. At age 21, she moved to St. Louis where she attended Brown's Business College, and took business courses at Washington University. While pursuing her studies in St. Louis, Cecelia also volunteered as a teacher.

After completing school, Cecelia went to work for the Claridge Hotel in St. Louis, starting as a stenographer, and advancing to the bookkeeping department where she learned auditing. She was transferred to the LeClaire Hotel in Moline, Illinois and then was promoted to the Claridge Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee where she served as auditor until her retirement at age 65. After retirement from the Claridge Hotel, Cecelia remained in Memphis, serving as auditor at the Chisca Plaza Hotel until her final retirement at the age of 75.

After retirement, Cecelia returned to the family home in Pinckneyville where she enjoyed the company of her sister, Magdalen Ruppert Mann and the Mann family. Cecelia's sister, Cdr. Margaret Ruppert, NC, USN, Ret., of Pensacola, Florida, would visit frequently.

During her years in business, Cecelia saw many changes and technological advancements. While she used adding machines and calculators in her job, she remarks that now computers have become the primary business tool. Other changes that Cecelia has witnessed involve the expanded opportunities for women in the business world. In 2000, when she was interviewed for The Southern Illinoisian and was asked to name the biggest improvement she had seen in 102 years, Cecelia responded, "That women can go forward in the business world. That's wonderful. Now they can have a job with a man's rank. They can have any occupation."

Cecelia came from a hard working family. Her father was employed at the mill and in the

mines and her mother worked diligently to raise and educate their large family. Even though Cecelia was well ahead of her time by pursuing a successful career in the business world, she always remembered the lessons learned during her childhood, respect all people and go to church on Sunday.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cecelia M. Ruppert on reaching this milestone birthday and wishing her all the best for the future.

APPOINTMENT OF CHARLIE THOMAS TO NAFCU

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Charlie Thomas, the President of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, headquartered in my district in Germantown, MD, on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

For the past 35 years, Mr. Thomas has dedicated his life on behalf of improving financial institutions in America and currently serves as President of the Alliance of Credit Unions and is also a member of the National Association of Federal Credit Union's Region II Advisory Committee. His illustrious experience further includes service as Maryland's committee chairman for the "Campaign for Consumer Choice" as well as the founding Chairman of the CU Auto Loan Network.

As the President of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, Mr. Templeton has focused on ensuring his members receive helpful, personal service. Through his credit union, he is continuously educating his members on how to prevent identity theft. He also understands that today's youth must be armed with the knowledge to be financially savvy. He is forever trying to improve the direction and leadership that he provides the Mid-Atlantic FCU, even attending the inaugural Credit Union Executive Society's (CUES) Advanced Leadership Institute at Harvard University.

It is because of the good work of Mr. Thomas and others like him that the credit union movement enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of the credit union movement and I know that he will bring this dedication to his service on the NAFCU Board of Directors. I wish Mr. Thomas the best of luck in this new role and I look forward to working with him in this new capacity.

THE AMERICAN LIFE SCIENCES COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2007

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the American Life Sciences Competitiveness Act of 2007. This legislation aims to modernize the Internal Revenue Code so that the U.S. life sciences industry—both biotech and medical device companies—can effectively raise the capital they need to fund

the next generation of medicines and medical devices that will lead to longer and healthier lives for Americans and people around the world. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my distinguished colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, Representatives KEVIN BRADY, RICHARD NEAL and WALLY HERGER.

This legislation remedies obstacles to future growth and development faced by the American biotechnology and medical device industries. I want to thank the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), the Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA), Pennsylvania BIO, the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute and the California Healthcare Institute for their strong support of our efforts to modernize the tax code for the 21st Century.

The life sciences industry promises to be a key growth sector for the American economy. The biotech industry alone comprises nearly 1,500 companies, located in all 50 states, and employs nearly 200,000 workers. The more than 6,000 medical device companies in the U.S. employ over 350,000 Americans at wages 49 percent greater than the average for private industry.

In my own State of Pennsylvania, the biopharmaceutical industry has roughly 30,000 high-wage employees. Additionally, there are more than 120 medical device companies in Pennsylvania, the majority of which are small companies working on clinical trials prior to seeking marketing approval for their products. These companies offer great employment opportunities, providing good wages and benefits to talented, skilled workers. They are important contributors to Pennsylvania's expanding health care sector and often conduct clinical trials in partnership with academic medical facilities such as the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, and the University of Pittsburgh as well as Drexel, Temple, Thomas Jefferson and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

America's life sciences sector is one of the most research-intensive industries in the world. U.S. biotech companies alone spent roughly \$27 billion on research and development in 2006. There are more than 400 biotech products in clinical trials targeting more than 200 diseases, including various cancers, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and AIDS.

Small medical device companies are also a leading source of innovation that is providing technologies that address previously unmet medical needs. These companies are transforming health care by providing physicians and their patients with the tools that allow early disease detection, less invasive procedures and more effective treatments.

For all its bright opportunities, America's life sciences industry faces daunting challenges. First is access to capital for development of biotech therapies. Most biotech firms are small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Because the development of new technologies that can often take 10 years or more and hundreds of millions of dollars to bring a new product to market, these small companies experience years of large cash outlays before they have the opportunity to realize any profit.

In fact, in 2006 the biotech industry generated a total net loss of \$5.6 billion. Despite this, R&D expenditures increased by 30 percent in 2005. For every \$1 of sales in 2006,